

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
APRIL 23, 2012
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2012-0096
2913 RIO GRANDE STREET

PROPOSAL

Demolish a ca. 1946 house.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story rectangular-plan side-gabled stuccoed frame house with a central, partial-width front-gabled overdoor hood; single and paired 1:1 windows.

RESEARCH

The house was built in 1946 by Wesley H. Wunneburger, a local building contractor; he is listed as the owner of the property on the 1946 building permit. Wunneburger is listed as a resident of the house in the 1947 city directory; he listed his occupation as a carpenter. Along with Wunneburger lived Walter and Ruth Wilde, also listed as renters. Walter Wilde was a draftsman for local architectural firm Page, Southerland, and Page, and was the son of piano tuner Ernest Wilde and his wife, Irma; he grew up in Austin. Wunneburger and the Wildes lived in the house for only a short period of time – by 1949, Gerald and Hermine Van Eck were listed as the owners and occupants of the house. Hermine Van Eck was the daughter of Paul and Hermine Wilde; he was the manager of Becker Lumber Company, and the cousin of Walter Wilde, who was the first occupant of the house, and possibly its designer. Gerald Van Eck was a linotype operator; they lived here from around 1948 to 1953; the house then became a rental unit and has remained so to this day.

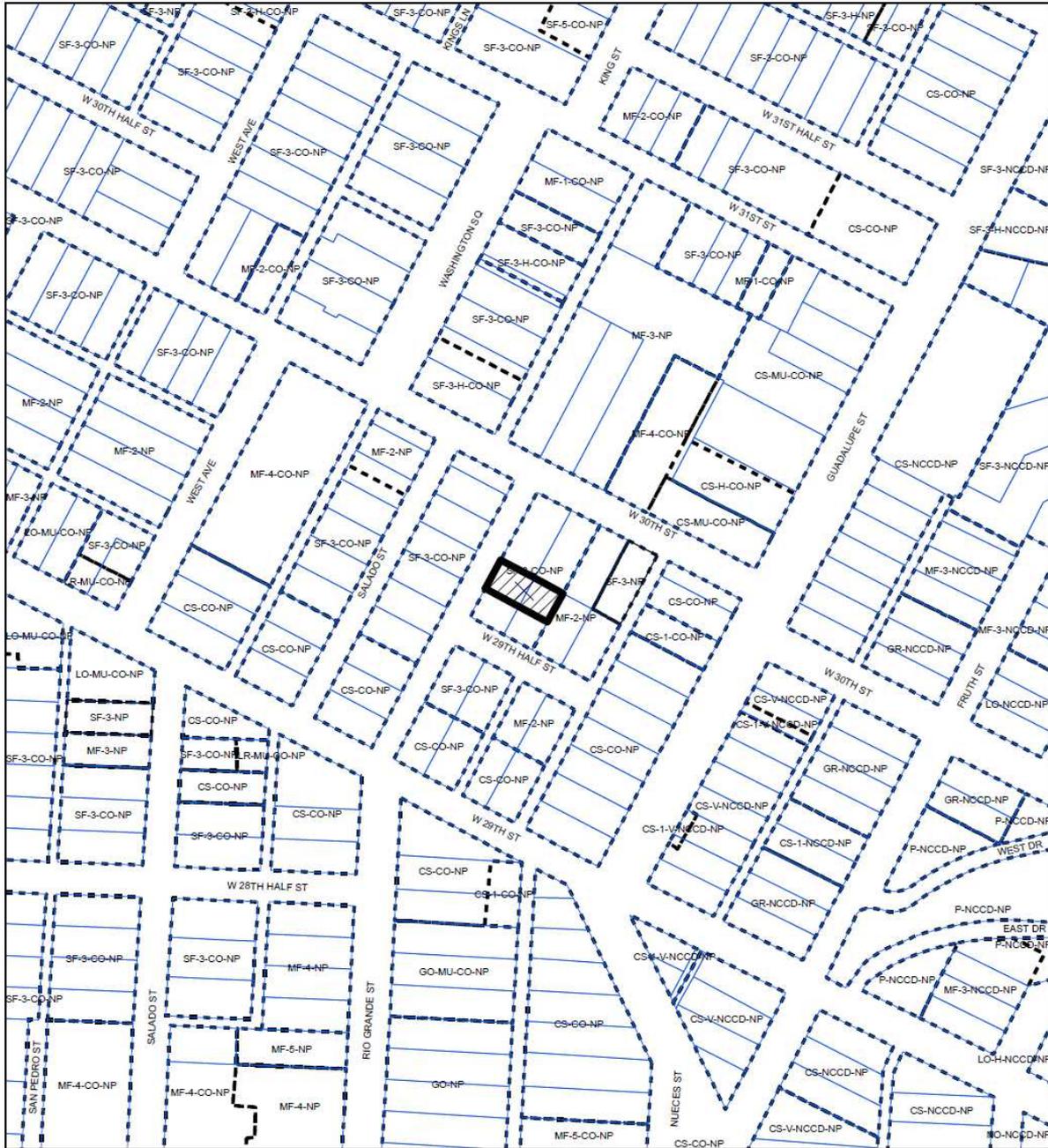
STAFF COMMENTS

The house does not appear in any city survey.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff must recommend the release of the demolition permit; the house does not appear to have the requisite architectural or historical significance to warrant individual designation as a historic landmark, but staff strongly urges the applicant to either incorporate the house into development plans for the site, or to relocate the house rather than demolish it. The house was completely rehabilitated several years ago and appears to be structurally sound.

LOCATION MAP



HISTORIC DEMOLITION PERMIT

CASE#: HDP-2012-0096



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  ZONING BOUNDARY



This map has been produced by the Communications Technology Management Dept. on behalf of the Planning Development Review Dept. for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

2913 Rio Grande Street
ca. 1946



OCCUPANCY HISTORY
2913 Rio Grande Street

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
February, 2007

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1992 | Janet M. Banwell, renter
No occupation listed
NOTE: The directory indicates that Janet M. Banwell was a new resident at this address. |
| 1987 | Vacant |
| 1981 | No return |
| 1975 | Lawrence Lammers, renter
No occupation listed |
| 1969 | Charles R. and Kathleen Jones, owners
Employed by Austin State Hospital |
| 1963 | Hudson M. and Barbara Roach, renters
Announcer, KNOW Radio |
| 1959 | George H. and Martha A. Lewis, renters
Student |

- 1955 Noyes W. and Florence Willett, renters
Technical supervisor, University of Texas
- 1952 Gerald W. and Hermine Van Eck, owners
Linotype operator
- 1949 Gerald W. and Hermine Van Eck, owners
Linotype operator
- 1947 W.H. Warmeburger [sic], renter
Carpenter
- Walter E. and Ruth L. Wilde, renters
Draftsman, Page-Southerland-Page
- 1944-45 The address is not listed in the directory.

W. H. Wunneburger 2913 Rio Grande Street
 63 (B) of 5
 & 6 2A - -
 L. Brown
 Stucco on frame res. & garage
 31373 9-4-46 \$3800.00
 Owner

5

Building permit to W.H. Wunneberger for the construction of the house and garage (1946)

WATER SERVICE PERMIT No. B 2260⁶³

Austin, Texas

Received of BECKER LUMBER COMPANY **INDEXED**
 Address 2913 RIO GRANDE ST.
 Amount TWO AND 50/100 \$ 2.50
 Plumber R.H. BARR Size of Tap 1/2"
 Date of Connection 10-10-46
 Size of Tap Made 3/4"
 Size Service Made 3/4"
 Size Main Tapped 6"
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 46"
 From S. Prop. Line to Curb Cock 19'
 Location of Meter CURB
 Type of Box LOCK
 Depth of Main in St. 36"
 Depth of Service Line 2'
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main 2 1/2"
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 7713211-13-46

No. Fittings	Size	Description
1	Curb Cock	5/8"
1	Elbow	
1	St. Elbow	
1	Bushing	
1	Reducer	3/4" COPPIN
22	Pipe	3/4" COP
1	Lead Comp.	3/4" COP
1	Nipples	
1	Union	3/4" 10-170N
1	Plug	
1	Tap	1/2"
1	Stop	1/2"
1	Box	LOCK
1	Lid	
	Valves	
	Job No.	1132302
	Req. No.	BENSON

INDEXED

Water service permit to Becker Lumber Company (1946)

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES:

According to the 1930 U.S. Census report, Walter Wilde was the 10-year old son of piano tuner Ernest Wilde and his wife Irma. They lived at 1412 W. 9th Street, a designated city historic landmark. Hermine Wilde Van Eck was the daughter of Paul Wilde, the manager of Becker Lumber Company, and the cousin of Walter Wilde, who is listed as the first resident of the house. Hermine Wilde Van Eck was born in 1924, and married Gerald Van Eck; they lived in the house from around 1948 to around 1953. The Wilde and Becker families were very closely intertwined – the Ernest and Irma Wilde lived next door to Francis Becker, the book-keeper for Becker Lumber Company, on W. 9th Street. The homes of both Ernest Wilde and Paul Wilde are city historic landmarks.

WESLEY H. WUNNEBURGER
 Wesley H. Wunneburger, 74,
 of 603 Rodam Lane, died
 Saturday in a local hospital. He
 had been a resident of Austin
 for some 50 years and was a
 building contractor until he
 retired in 1950.

The body will remain at
 Weed-Corley Funeral Home
 until 2:30 p.m. Monday, at
 which time it will be taken to be
 Ward Memorial Methodist
 Church for services to be held
 at 3:30 p.m. with Rev. Albert
 Merubia officiating.

Graveside services will be
 held at 5 p.m. under the
 auspices of the Austin Lodge 12,
 A. F. & A. M., at the Dixon
 Prairie Cemetery near Paige.

Memorial contributions may
 be made to the Ward Memorial
 Methodist Church.

Pallbearers will be Henry
 Wunneburger, Edward
 Wunneburger, Joe
 Wunneburger, and Marvin
 Kretzschmar.

Obituary of W.H. Wunneburger, the builder of the house.
 Austin American, November 8, 1971

VAN ECK, Hermine W., 2603 Westover Road, died Monday. Services 2 p.m. Thursday at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. Burial, Oakwood Cemetery. Memorial contributions in lieu of flowers. Survivors: husband, Gerald W. Van Eck of Austin; daughters, Anita Sheffield, Margaret Mihalik, both of Austin; sisters, Louise Parker of Dallas, Paula Knowles of Atchison, Kan., Anita Austin of San Antonio, Elinor Koppelman of Austin, Margaret Bush of Houston; one grandchild. (Weed-Corley)

Obituary of Hermine Van Eck
Austin American-Statesman, November 19, 1980



Gerald W. Van Eck

Gerald Wilson Van Eck, beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather, died March 27, 2008, at the age of 89. Jerry was born in Detroit, MI, on November 23, 1918.

While he was stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, he married Hermine Wilde September 4th, 1943 in Austin. He proudly served his country in World War II under Gen George Patton in the 10th Armored "Tiger" Division, earning a bronze star and purple heart, as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Predeceased by Hermine in 1980, he is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law, Anita and Stephen D. Sheffield of Pflugerville and Margaret E. Reid and Donald M. Shidler of Caddo Mills; grandchildren, Stephen D. Sheffield, Jr. and wife Autumn of Hutto, Sarah Sheffield of Austin, Amy Reid of Dallas, and Timothy Reid of Arpelar, OK; great-grandsons, Stephen D. Sheffield, III, Nolan Sheffield and Jackson Sheffield of Hutto; and special friend, Victor Sumner.

Jerry will always be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, love of his family, loyalty to his friends, generous giving to anyone who was in need, and his deep abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

The family will receive friends from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 31st at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home. Services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 606 W. 15th St. Interment will follow in Oakwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations made to a favorite charity.

Obituary and guestbook online at wcfish.com



Obituary of Gerald W. Van Eck
Austin American-Statesman, March 30, 2008